

# The Eagle's Scream



## Commemorative Air Force Florida Wing

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### April General Membership Meeting

The April General Membership meeting of the Florida Wing, CAF will be held at the Victoria Gardens Club, 1001 Garden Club Drive, Deland, FL 32724, on April 21 2010. A cash bar social hour will start at 6PM with dinner served at 7PM. The program for the evening will be a nature talk by our own Adjutant, Colonel Ann Conway. Ann has traveled extensively in search of up-close encounters with Polar Bears, Harp Seal pups, Beluga Whales and other wildlife. She has a wonderful set of slides which she will share with us. This is a program not to be missed.

The menu for the evening will be:

**Mixed Green Salad**

followed by your choice of either

**London Broil or Tilapia Picatta**

accompanied by

**Rosemary Roasted Potatoes and**

**Green Beans**

**Dessert**

and the usual fixens'

**\$20 per person all inclusive**

**Call Jim Bannerman (386) 257-3853**

**for reservations, your menu choice**

**and driving directions**

The Victoria Gardens gate closes at 7PM. If you arrive late and the gate is closed, call (386) 216-7786 and we will come to let you in

# Status of the TBM Restoration

by Colonel Dick Russell

## Fuselage

Surface corrosion has been removed from the interior and exterior of the fuselage. Damaged formers in the belly have been replaced and various holes or sheet metal damage has been repaired or replaced and the interior is ready for primer. New heavy skin has been fabricated and installed on the tail. Bombardier door hinges have been manufactured and are ready for installation. Vertical stabilizer fittings have been manufactured and installed. Both wing and center fuel tanks have been IRAN returned, installed and pressure checked.

## Wings

Cleaning of both wings is presently underway, along with stripping the wheel wells. The damaged parts are being removed. New parts have just arrived to facilitate this repair. The right stub-wing has been removed for new skin. The left stub-wing is ready for re-installation.

## Stabilizers & Control Surfaces

Fabric was removed from ailerons, horizontal stabilizers and rudder. Repair of the structures and installation of a new tail light on the rudder is complete. Bearings and control rods have been replaced. Ailerons have been recovered, doped, primed and ready for paint. The rudder and stabilizers are in the process of being recovered.

## Landing Gear

Main Landing Gear (MLG) has been removed, overhauled with new seals, painted and re-installed on the aircraft. Serviceable wheels and brakes have been obtained and installed along with new tires. MLG Retract Cylinders have been overhauled by Embry-Riddle University and installed. Tail landing gear (TLG) has been overhauled, painted and installed along with a new tire.

## Hydraulic, Electrical and Fuel Systems

Removal of all electrical wires and hydraulic and fuel lines has been completed. We took care to preserve the shape and length in order that they may be used as

patterns for the new lines. The overhaul of numerous hydraulic actuators and the fuel tank selector has been completed.

## Turret

The turret has been restored and delivery is expected momentarily.

## Bomb Bay Doors

We have purchased new bomb bay operating door hardware. New bomb bay doors are ready for priming.

## Cockpit

The cockpit has been cleaned and ready for priming.

## Firewall Forward

The replacement of skin on the nose section has started. Cleaning the engine compartment and the firewall forward area has been completed.

## Prop

We continue to seek the missing internal parts for this propeller.

## Items purchased to assist with this project include:

CD with microfiche drawings.

CD with expanded drawings of photos of the TBM.

We have established a system for storing removed parts along with a computer record of the location of these parts.



# TICO Air Show

March 13 & 14



It was a cold windy morning when we set up the PX tent



But it warmed up in the afternoon



We took 42 pictures of kids in the L17 Cockpit



Col. Dick Russell (red and white plane ) and his Retro Flight Team make a low pass at the TICO Air Show

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## Executive Officer's Report

by Colonel Stan Mitchell

For all of the Wing members, these last couple of months has not seemed like “sunny Florida”. Last year by this time, the grass was green, the trees were budding and the flowers, especially the azaleas, were in bloom. However, this year, we continue to be battered by cold temperatures and windy days. Hopefully, this is changing soon.

### Airshows

Since the last issue of the Eagle's Scream, members of the Florida Wing participated in two airshows. First, The Vero Beach Aviation Day was a single day event in February at the Vero Beach Municipal Airport. The second was the TICO Airshow presented by the Valiant Air Command. It was a three-day event held at the Space Coast Airport in March. In both events, the weather was cold and windy, but, thank goodness the sun was shining. The PX trailer was brought down and set up next to the wing's L-17, “Allie Gator”. Even though the wind was fierce, we were successful selling airplane models and pins and patches. Many of the Colonels stepped up and successfully sold “Photo Ops” to young, future aviators and adults in the wing's L-17 cockpit.

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A big THANK YOU goes to our Colonels who braved the weather to work for their colleagues in the Florida Wing.

Since this is the “season” of airshows, the Florida Wing is planning to attend more of them. All of us should plan to spend a couple of days helping in the events.

## Grants

The CAF Restoration Grant Committee has committed to supporting the TBM Restoration this year. This year (2010), the Florida Wing is requesting a \$20,000 match for our restoration effort. So far, we have sent almost \$4,000 and received an equivalent match. We must continue to raise funds for this effort. The next meeting of the Grant Committee will be in June.

The Staff Officers are continuing to work on the Volusia County Cultural Grant. If we are awarded this grant, it would cover a significant portion of our hangar and library operating expenses. The deadline for submission is March 26.

## Bob Robbins Memorial Library and Museum

For many of you visiting the office and the hangar, you have seen some changes in the library and museum. Several new book cases have been purchased, into which many of the technical books and binders have been placed. New pictures also have been framed and placed on the walls. We plan to accommodate other pictures from our archives. Other updates and modifications can be expected to enhance the appearance of the museum. Soon, the Library will be open on Saturday mornings for CAF members and guests and the general public.

## Activities

It is Spring and the Wing members have several opportunities to participate in fund raising activities. Prominent among them are the Sun N Fun Fly-in at Lakeland and the Day of Remembrance in June. To continually make the Florida Wing successful, we will need volunteers to step forward.

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## Wing Garage Sale

March 19 & 20



## WING LEADER COMMENTS

by Colonel Chuck Downey

Thank you Colonels for your continuing support and dedication to our Wing's objectives. The ongoing restoration of our venerable TBM Avenger is a daunting task by any standards. I salute all those involved with the restoration for overcoming a cold hangar and pressing on all winter. Spring temperatures may soon arrive in DeLand lifting our spirits and outlook. With other Colonels, I will continue seeking candidates having mechanical skills. Early completion of our TBM requires a significant increase in “hands on” man hours producing needed repair and assembly. Colonel Lou Fig, Ted Cary and Dave Laurens have worked many extra days to increase results which is most gratifying. We need more tasks accomplished each week otherwise our restoration will be a “work in progress” far too long!

